REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 2, 3 and 5 and cancels claim 4. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 2, 3 and 5.

Claims 2-5 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as their invention. As indicated above, claim 4 was canceled. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claim 4 is rendered moot. Various amendments were made throughout the remaining claims 2, 3 and 5 to bring them into conformity with the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claims 2, 3 and 5 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Specifically, amendments were made throughout claims 2, 3 and 5 to overcome the objections noted by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 USC §101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-7 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,728,765. As indicated above, claim 4 was canceled. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claim 4 is rendered moot.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claim 4 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claim 4 are taught or suggested by claims 1-7 of the prior patent. The cancellation of claim 4 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application.

The above described 35 USC §101 rejection with respect to the remaining claims 2, 3 and 5 is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited

in claims 2, 3 and 5 are not taught or suggested by claims 1-7 of the prior patent. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection with respect to claims 2, 3 and 5 is respectfully requested.

Amendments were made to claims 2, 3 and 5 to more clearly recite that according to the present invention the controlling information device, when performing control of the controlled information device, requests the controlled information device to be controlled by the controlling information device by sending function data using the device named data prestored in the first storage of the controlling information device. Thus, according to the present invention the controlling information device need not request information regarding the device name of the controlled information device since such information has been prestored in the controlling information device. This prestoring of the device name data of the controlled information device eliminates a step to be performed by the controlling information device, namely the requesting of the device name data from the controlled information device, thereby causing the controlling information device to immediately implement its controlling function without delay.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by claims 1-7 of the prior patent. In claims 1-7 of the prior patent, particularly claims 1, 4 and 7, the request for the device name data is issued when the controlling information device controls the controlled information device. As noted above, the control being exercised by the controlling information device according to the claims of the prior patent cannot be implemented until receipt of the device name data. Thus, delays can occur.

The present invention is intended to overcome the above described situation by prestoring the device name data of the controlled information device in the memory of the controlling information device. Thus, the controlling information device need only refer to its memory to obtain the device name data so as to immediately exercise control over the controlled information device. Such is not possible in the system recited in the claims of the prior patent.

Thus, claims 1-7 of the prior patent fails to teach or suggest wherein at least one of the information devices further comprises first storage means for storing device name data received from the other information device and second storage means for storing function data sent from the other information device as recited in the claims.

Further, claims 1-7 of the prior patent fails to teach or suggest that the at least one of the information devices, when performing control, requests a controlled information device to be controlled among the other information devices in the system to send function data using the device name data stored in the first storage means as recited in the claims.

Therefore, claims 1-7 of the prior patent fail to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 2, 3 and 5. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §101 rejection of claims 2-5 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-7 of the prior patent is respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the rejection of claims 2-5.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 2, 3 and 5 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 2, 3 and 5 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.35908CX4).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc
(703) 684-1120